

MDISC/WIND

Ministry of Diversity in Spiritual Community / Weaving Intercultural Networks of Diversity)

Report for November, 1996 GLAD District Conference

Submitted by Mr. Stan Kimer, GLAD District WIND representative

At the May, 1996 District Conference, the MDISC/WIND caucus elected the Reverend LaPaula Turner, Safe Harbor MCC - Memphis, and myself, Mr. Stan Kimer, St. John's MCC - Raleigh as the MDSIC and WIND reps respectively. We were both confirmed at the district business meeting. We were elected to complete 18 month terms ending in November, 1997. Mr. Derrick Singletary and Reverend Polly Ireland had agreed to serve an interim extension of 6 months until the caucus in Nashville in May. Derrick and Polly are both much appreciated for their years of service to the MDISC/WIND ministry, formerly called Department of People of Colors (DPOC).

Since May, LaPaula has officially retired from the UFMCC ministry and has also stepped down from her position as district MDSIC chair. Therefore, we should try to elect a person of color to serve the remaining 12 months of her term. LaPaula has expressed to me her fondness and regards for the UFMCC ministry and is open to providing consulting and ministry services to us.

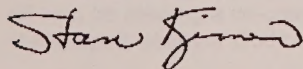
In August, several people from our district, including LaPaula and myself, attended the Leadership Conference titled "The Gospel for a Global Generation" in Burbank, California. Since the whole theme of the conference was building a global, worldwide, multi-cultural and multi-racial church, a separate MDISC/WIND conference was not held. I picked up some material and ideas which should be useful and expanding our ministry in the GLAD district. At the MDSIC/WIND business meeting, Ms. Juana Majel was elected MDISC executive director, succeeding Mr. Bernie Barbour.

On the local front, several of us at St. Johns MC participated in a worship service, workshop and march concerning the racist burning of Southern Churches. The activity was co-sponsored by the Committee on Racial Justice of the N.C. Council of Churches on which I serve, and the Religious and Political Leaders Seminar, a group of predominantly black religious and community and leaders. UFMCC joined with several other denominations in publicly condemning racism and exhorting the church to be a leading force in dealing with racism in our culture.

At this conference, I will be facilitating a workshop on "Reaching out to Build Diversity" in our local congregations. We will examine the biblical call to this ministry, brainstorm on ideas to build racial and cultural diversity, and through a short skit discuss pitfalls to watch out for. I would like to see the MDISC/WIND ministry offer a workshop at every conference and also develop an entire conference built around diversity.

I am ready to assist any congregation in our District and feel free to write or call me.

Warm regards in Christ,



Stan Kimer, GLAD WIND Representative

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THE WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT REPORT
Fall Conference
November 15-17, 1996

Dear Clergy and Lay Delegates,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, and constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." (*Phil. 1:3*)

I borrow this statement from Brother Paul because I do thank our God each day for all of you who are strong and courageous in sharing the gospel with people all over our GLAD District. I am writing this letter to you with mixed emotions and a heavy heart, but my heart is also overflowing with joy with the wonderful things that are taking place in my life.

I spoke with Jay Neely several weeks ago and shared with him the journey that I have been traveling on over the last several months in my life. As you know The Women's Secretariat has been a very big part of my life for a while now.

We had a wonderful workshop in Nashville where the women of this district came together and shared their ideas and visions of what they would like to see happen with the women's programs in our district. I was pleased with their interest and their excitement, and I returned to Charlotte ready to put their dreams into action.

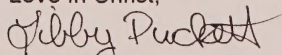
As I returned to my home, I found my father had taken ill and was in the hospital. My journey took a new turn. These last six months have been difficult, but they also have been enlightening to me. God has sat me still, and we have had many talks as I have waited on phone calls on my father's progress. During my father's illness, my mother's health began failing and my time became more limited to what I could do with The Women's Secretariat.

Even though these six months have been difficult for me, watching my father's life being gradually taken from him day by day, and watching my mother going deaf from a disease that the doctors cannot explain I still rejoice in the blessings that God has given me during this time of struggle.

God is leading me on a new journey and in that it is time for me to let go of The Women's Secretariat. I feel as if Moses did when he stood out looking over the Promised Land and knew that he would not make that final journey. I am confident that this program can work for the women of our district, but I can no longer be the leader to take TWS where it needs to go. God is calling me to pursue my call into this wonderful ministry and the sharing of the gospel to all who will listen, and I am excited about pursuing what God will have me to do.

We will be holding an election at this conference to elect someone to finish out my term, and we will also be electing a co-chair for a one year term. Please keep this program in your prayers, and support whoever God chooses to take TWS where it needs to go from here.

Love In Christ,



Libby Puckett

